

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicant submits the following remarks. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative during a phone call on July 12, 2004. Claim language was discussed during the phone call, although no agreement as to allowability of the claims was reached. This discussion with the Examiner enabled Applicant to better prepare a response in connection with the claims.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claim 14 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 13 and 16-18 are amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-13 and 15-19 are now pending in this Application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

Claims 1-7, 12-15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,473,794 to Guheen et al. (hereinafter Guheen). Guheen discloses a commercial web site wherein a user can order products. Guheen also discloses displaying a pictorial representation of a system having a group of components. The components of Guheen are not the same components claimed in the present application. The present application relates to testing of object oriented software components (e.g. enterprise Java beans). Claim 1 has been amended to more precisely define the software component as an object oriented software component.

Further, Guheen discloses testing the operability of **system applications**. Guheen does not disclose or suggest providing a testing service for testing an **object oriented software component**. Claim 1 has been amended to more

precisely define the software component as an ***object oriented software component to be tested***. Thus, in the present application, a service is provided wherein an object oriented software component (e.g. an enterprise java bean) developed by a first party is provided to a second party where the object oriented software component is received, test code for testing the object oriented software component is produced, the object oriented software component is tested using the test code, the results of the testing are monitored and the results of the testing are provided to the developer (the first party) of the object oriented software component. Guheen fails to disclose or suggest such a testing service. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed allowable over Guheen. Claims 2, 5-7 and 13 have been amended to reflect the changes to claim 1. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Claims 2-7, 12-13, 15 and 19 depend from amended claim 1 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-7, 12-15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Guheen is believed to have been overcome.

Claims 8-10, 11, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,371,883 to Gross et al. (hereinafter Gross). The Examiner stated that Guheen fails to disclose details regarding the type of testing to be done, how to process results from testing, the test format, and determining the input/output parameters. Claims 8-10, 11, 16 and 17 depend from amended claim 1 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable. Further, like Guheen, Gross also fails to disclose or suggest a testing service for testing of an object oriented software component. Since neither Guheen nor Gross, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a testing service for testing of an object oriented software component, claims 8-10, 11, 16 and 17 are believed allowable over Guheen in view of Gross. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of

claims 8-10, 11, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen in view of Gross is believed to have been overcome.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,670 to Swoboda. Claim 18 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable as it depends from a base claim which is believed allowable. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen in view of Swoboda is believed to have been overcome.

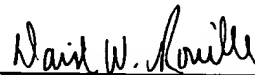
The prior art made of record is not believed to disclose or suggest the present invention.

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Rouille, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 40,150
CHAPIN & HUANG, L.L.C.
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
Telephone: (508) 366-9600
Facsimile: (508) 616-9805

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